Creation of separate department of land resources

2287. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mohan Dharia Committee report on creation of separate Land Resource Department vetted by the Planning Commission has been accepted by Government;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a special cell under his Ministry in order to avoid duplication and delay, presently involved, in various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The High Level Committee on Wastelands Development headed by Shri Mohan Dharia in its report submitted in December 1995, recommended the creation of a Department of Land Resources. In light of the recommendation of the High Level Committee, Department of Land Resources was created in April 1999 and activities like Land Reforms, Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) were transferred to the new Department.

(b) and (c) Presently, programmes relating to Soil Conservation and Watershed Development are being implemented by the Department of Land Resources and by the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, and Planning Commission with different guidelines and varying financial patterns. A proposal is under consideration to set up a National Mission for Land and Watershed Development in the Department of Land Resources and to transfer to it various programmes and schemes relating to the conservation, development and management of land resources of the country.

Water management plans for rural development

2288. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any water management plans for rural development;

(b) if so, whether this would enable rural communities to conserve water for drinking, irrigation etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implemented three watershed development programmes namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) with the objective of developing the fragile resource base of drought prone and desert areas and improving the productivity of wastelands. Water harvesting and water conservation are core activities undertaken in the watershed development projects taken up under these Programmes. So far, 436 watershed projects covering an area of 38.03 lakh ha. under IWDP, 16,268 projects covering an area of 81.34 lakh ha. under DPAP and 8,314 projects covering an area of 41.57 Lakh ha. under DDP have been sanctioned under these programmes.

Budget for Swajaldhara projects

†2289. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any budget limit has been prescribed for each State for implementation of 'Swajaldhara' drinking water projects;

(b) if so, the maximum cost prescribed for such projects;

(c) whether 10 per cent share to payable by villagers for the projects may be contributed by any Member of Parliament from M.P.L.A.D. fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Swajaldhara is a demand responsive, community-led, participatory scheme. In the financial year 2002-2003 budget limit has not been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.